IV. *A Relation of a ſtrange Symptom attended an* Hydrops Pectoris, *and the reaſon of it, as it appeared on Diſſection of the Body. By Mr.* Samuel Doudy, *F. R. S.*

MR. *Cowper* in his Letter Printed in the late Tranſactions, of an extraordinary large Kidney, occaſionally mentioning, that Sighing and difficulty of Reſpiration are always remarkable Symptoms in an *Hydrops Pectoris*, put me in mind of the Caſe of a Noble Peer.

It was many Years ago, ſo that I can't give ſo particular an Account as may be expected, and indeed would be neceſſary: But this I remember, that his ſhortneſs of Breathing was very extraordinary; for his Lordſhip was always better in Bed or Lying, than Sitting or Standing, quite contrary to other Aſthma's, in which the Afflicted, in Fits, are not able to lye down, the Muſcles of the Breaſt having a freer Motion, when in an Erect Poſture. In a ſhort time he dyed, and upon opening the Body, both the Cavities of the Breaſt were found full of Water, which, when ſtanding or ſitting preſſed ſo upon the Diaphragm, that Reſpiration was performed with difficulty; but when lying, that floating Load was ſo diſpoſed, that that Office of Nature was better performed.

This

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This ſeems to be ſo natural a Symptom, that it may be almoſt an Infallible Diagnoſtick, to diſtinguiſh an *Hydrops Pectoris* from other more frequent Diſeaſes of the Breaſt, that give a ſhortneſs of Breathing.

His Lordſhip, tho' Ancient, was in all his Viſcera very Sound.

Quere, Whether it be not Practicable to uſe the *Paracenthesis* in the like Caſe, when the Diſeaſe is certainly known, and without it Death is moſt likely to enſue?